

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-04 COME-00 FEAE-00 TRSE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SP-02

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R 051503Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0232

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : EMIN GV

SUBJECT : GUINEAN OFFSHORE OIL - SOGUIP MEETING

REF: STATE 236959

1. SOGUIP BOARD MEETING TOOK PLACE NOV 2-4 CONAKRY FOLLOWING ARRIVAL BUTTES OFFICIALS HEADED BY FRANK WALSH. CONAKRY RADIO ANNOUNCED NOV 4 THAT MEETING DISCUSSED PLANS FOR COMMENCING DRILLING OPERATIONS IN 1974-75. OFFICIAL OF GUINEAN STATE COMMITTEE TOLD US THAT MEETINGS HAD GONE WELL AND THAT NO SERIOUS PROBLEMS AROSE, BUT DID NOT GO INTO DETAILS.

2. WALSH AND OTHER BUTTES EXECUTIVES TOLD ME NOV 4, HOWEVER, THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN ARDUOUS, WITH GUINEAN SIDE APPLYING INTENSE PRESSURE TO PIN DOWN SPECIFIC DATE TO COMMENCE DRILLING EFFORTS. GUINEAN APPARENTLY WISH TO ANNOUNCE START OF OPERATIONS TO COINCIDE WITH IMPORTANT CELEBRATIONS IN EARLY 1975. GUINEANS VIRTUALLY IGNORED BUTTE'S EXPLANATION THAT FIRM DATE IMPOSSIBLE IN VIEW PROBLEMS LOCATING OIL RIGS AND FINDING SEA TRANSPORTATION FROM US TO GUINEA. TEAM FINALLY ACCEPTED GUINEAN LANGUAGE BUT DEPARTED SOMEWHAT DISTURBED AND CHAGRINED BY NEGOTIATING TACTICS OF GUINEANS, INCLUDING EFFORTS TO CHANGE WORDING OF TEXTS AGREED UPON DURING NEGOTIATING SESSIONS. WALSH TOLD ME NEGOTIATIONS ALMOST BROKE DOWN SEVEJAL

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TIMES.

3. BUTTES ALSO CONCERNED BY GUINEAN PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS OVER PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, NOTABLY IN RECENT SEKOU TOURE SPEECHES, THAT OIL ALREADY FOUND OFF GUINEAN COAST IN IMPORTANT QUANTITIES, IMPLYING THAT ALL THAT REMAINS NOW IS TO DRILL WELLS. WALSH SAID HE TRIED EXPLAINING SEVERAL TIMES THE FACTS OF LIFE ON OIL DRILLING AND UNCERTAINTY OF RESULTS EVEN IN MOST FAVORABLE CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT GUINEANS DID NOT SEEM TO WANT TO LISTEN. FOR THIS REASON, AND BECAUSE OF NEGOTIATING EXPERIENCE, BUTTES GROUP LEFT CONAKRY WORRIED ABOUT FUTURE OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH GUINEANS.

TODMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: PETROLEUM, MEETINGS, OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS, NEGOTIATIONS
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Draft Date: 05 NOV 1974
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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